Caltrans

Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin

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The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

Storm Water Discharges...

Sediment Control

Sediment control practices are the "last line of defense" in storm water pollution prevention Best Management Practices. Sediment control practices are designed to remove sediment from runoff before the runoff leaves the site.

If used by themselves, sediment control practices are generally insufficient. However, when used in conjunction with approved soil stabilization practices, these methods will perform adequately.

During the winter season, the contractor is required to implement soil stabilization BMPs **and** sediment control BMPs. The sediment control BMPs are required on all significant erodible side slope and down slope boundaries of the construction area. The contractor can most effectively implement sediment controls by carefully choosing the most appropriate BMPs, scheduling BMP installation as an integral part of the project, and finally installing the BMPs in accordance with specifications or manufacturers' guidance.

Some BMPs that remove sediment are:

- Check Dams (CD 34)
- Silt Fences (CD 36)
- Straw Bale Barrier (CD 37)
- Sandbag Barrier (CD 38)
- Brush or Rock Filter (CD 39)
- Storm Drain Inlet Protection (CD 40)
- Sediment Traps (CD 41)
- Sediment Basins (CD 42)
- Fiber Rolls (CD 43)

See Appendix C in the "Construction Contractors Guide and Specifications" handbook for detailed guidance.

How can you most efficiently implement controls on your construction project? Here are some suggestions:

- Implement the required winter season BMPs in a timely manner.
- Follow the installation methods shown in the Handbook or recommended by the manufacturer. Deviations often lead to failure and subsequent rework.
- Plan your installations to fit the current work schedule and plan ahead.
- Install BMPs at the locations discussed in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) or Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP). BMPs in the wrong location generally don't work.
- Install a backup system, as appropriate.
- Keep up with local weather predictions, and enforce inspections before, during and after storms.
- Implement a maintenance program so that each measure will function properly.
- Finally, use your imagination! Look for innovative products, and try to use practices that can perform more than one function.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks. Questions or comments may be directed to:

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